



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Antidegradation Policy Implementation for High Quality Waters

FROM: *[Signature]* William A. Whittington, Director
Office of Water Regulations
and Standards (WH-551)

[Signature]
James R. Elder, Director
Office of Water Enforcement
and Permits (EN-335)

TO: Charles H. Sutfin, Director
Water Division (5W)
Region V

We appreciate the opportunity to review the October 6, 1986 Region V Draft Guidance for Antidegradation Policy Implementation for High Quality Waters. It is consistent with the Federal water quality standards regulation on anti-degradation policy and provides a workable framework for implementation by the States.

The antidegradation policy is an integral part of water quality standards and its implementation continues to be a priority in the program. Three principles are basic to the policy: (1) common sense, (2) a focus on significant actions, and (3) public involvement in the decision. We note that the draft guidance appropriately addresses several matters related to both relaxation of effluent limitations and the maintenance of water quality standards. We also note the guidance establishes an appropriate set of economic criteria for use by the States in making the specific economic determination required by the standards regulation.

Headquarter's staff in both the Office of Water Enforcement and Permits (OWEP) and the Office of Water Regulations and Standards (OWRS) are available to assist you as needed.